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Pageant celebration full of fun events, activities

Parades, performances, arts, crafts, a 90th anniversary, races and even a college gathering are among the attractions during Pageant Days on Saturday and Sunday.

5K run/walk

Activities start early Saturday with a 5K run/walk and a 10K run in the State Park, sponsored by the chamber of commerce. Registration will be near the TePee Pools starting at 6:45 a.m., according to chamber executive director Kathy Wallingford.

Those interested may pick up a registration form at the chamber office or register at the event. Registration is \$10 or \$15 if the participant would like a commemorative T-shirt.

Awards will be given to the top three finishers in each of the categories.

Kiddie Parade

There will be a kiddie parade at Bicentennial Park at 9:45 a.m. Lineup begins at 9:15 a.m.

The youngsters will make a loop west to the traffic light and back.

Prizes will be awarded in various categories including costumes, animals, walkers and wheels.

Pageant Parade

U.S. Sen. John Barrasso is the grand marshal for the 2009 Pageant Days Parade at 10 a.m. The theme is "We're in Hot Water Now."

Entry forms are available at the chamber of commerce office.

"We had 43 entries in last year's parade," Wallingford said. "Let's shoot for 50 this year."

Categories include walking, automobiles, floats, horses or pets and musical. Line up begins at 9 a.m. at Fourth and Arapahoe streets.

The parade will proceed south on Fifth Street to the flagpole on Broadway, then west through the traffic light and make a U-turn at the county museum. The parade then moves east down the other side of Broadway to Third Street where it will turn left, passing the VFW to finish on Senior Avenue.

Entry forms must be at the chamber office by 5 p.m. Friday if the entry is to be announced by the emcee. First place in each category wins \$50 in Chamber Bucks, with a grand prize of \$100 in Chamber Bucks.

Indians to dance

Members of the Indian Tribes who will be performing during the Gift of the Waters Pageant traditionally ride the last float in the parade.

They stop at the intersection of Fifth and Broadway, and parade viewers are welcome to watch them perform several historic dances. In fact, the crowd is invited to join in some of the dancing.

Fire Department 90th

Immediately following the parade, the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department members will be celebrating their 90th anniversary with an open house at the fire hall on Fourteenth Street.

Fire chief Mark Collins said a light lunch and other refreshments will be available.

"Everything we have will be on display," Collins said. "We'll be giving tours of the hall and doing drawings for prizes."

The department averages 105 calls a year, according to Collins and currently has 13 fire response units in use.

Kiwanis Craft Fair

The Kiwanis Craft Fair from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday is shaping up to be quite the event, according to one of the coordinators, Janine Kelso.

"A few months ago we were afraid we wouldn't have it at all," she said.

Now the Kiwanis are running out of booth spaces and will definitely have more booths than last summer. Kelso said they have around 71 booths registered for the juried show.

"More people are requesting to be judged than we've had before," she said.

The committee took the advice of some people from last year and added more things for the children. Kelso said there will be race cars and non-permanent air-brushed tattoos.

Kelso said there is more diversity with gourmet foods, master potters and artists.

"About three-fourths of our displayers are from out of town," she said.

Some are from as far away as Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, South Dakota and Colorado.

Hub Whitt and the Sagebrush Swing Band will perform at the pavilion both days.

Kiwanis feed

The Kiwanis plans a brat and burger BBQ at the Kiwanis Shelter in Hot Springs State Park Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Folks will have a choice of a brat or a burger, corn on the cob, potato chips, BBQ beans, lemonade and dessert.

Casper College group

Casper College alumni will meet at the VFW on Saturday at 4 p.m.

Marcia Stevens Strausner, a HSCHS graduate and wife of former Casper College president and Thermopolis native LeRoy Strausner, will sign her books Saturday from 9-11:30 a.m. at Storyteller.

Pageant performance

The Gift of the Waters Pageant will be presented Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Big Spring.

Dixie Vialpando, one of the organizers, said the pageant, which began in 1950, includes dancers from the Eastern Shoshone and Arapaho tribes.

Folks are reminded to bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on during the performance. The area is handicap accessible.

There is no admission charge, but donations are accepted.



A rider on a four-wheeler races up the Lane 7 hill alongside the furrow of cold-mix asphalt placed by the Hot Springs County Road and Bridge crew on Thursday. On Friday the cold mix was spread by a grader and rolled into place on the last four-fifths of a mile that hadn't been paved. The crew has paved several miles in other areas too.

New weed, pest building bids in; cost at \$288,045

by Cindy Glasson

The winning bid for the main part of the new Hot Springs County Weed and Pest building project came in nearly \$59,000 lower than the competition.

Roy Decker and Sons Construction of Worland bid \$128,364, beating Scott Miller Construction of Thermopolis.

The plumbing, heating, air conditioning and fire sprinkler system installation was awarded to Steve's Plumbing for \$61,000. Basin Mechanical of Cody and Master Mechanical of Worland also bid.

Site excavation and fill went to WaR Roustabout of Thermopolis. Other bidders were

Rod's Excavating of Thermopolis and Master Mechanical of Worland.

The lone bidder for the electrical work was Jadeco, \$25,330.

With building permits, plan reviews, engineering and other associated costs, the total price for the new building is approximately \$288,045.

No balls, no dances or dining; bat shuts down senior center

by Pat Schmidt

Thanks to a bat, there was no ball or any other event going on at the Hot Springs County Senior Citizens Center on Monday.

A bat flew through the double automatic doors on Saturday night during the bingo party, eyewitnesses told center director Jan Dickeson when she was finally notified on Monday. She still isn't certain how that happened since the doors aren't supposed to open at the same time, a feature built in to keep cold winter temperatures from entering the building.

After contacting every official she and other people could think of, Dickeson, in conjunction with senior center board chairman David Peake, decided to shut down the center on Monday and Tuesday.

Part of the problem was the bat disappeared. In the search for somebody who knew what to do, Dickeson contacted several people.

County clerk Hans Odde was out of the office, but Karen Slocum called county attorney Jerry Williams. Other calls were made to the extension office, weed and pest district, a bat expert in Cody, officials in Cheyenne such as the aging division and local food health inspector Joe Martinez.

Martinez searched unsuccessfully for the bat and any droppings.

After being advised it was too costly to search for one bat, especially since it might already be

gone, Dickeson said she made the decision to shut down the center for two days. The biggest reason was advice that a bat couldn't live for more than 48 hours without food.

The staff sanitized the entire building several times, and the only activity on Monday was the delivery of meals. Lunch, pool and other activities were cancelled, although the card game was just moved to a private home.

No meals were prepared on Tuesday, and just frozen meals were delivered to shut-in people. That meant 14 people who work inside the building stayed home.

Dickeson said the decision was made to protect the people who eat lunch at the center, and she felt those who work there deserve the same protection.

The center was scheduled to reopen Wednesday, with another complete sanitization and inspection prior to preparing the noon meal.

"We know by and large bats are alright and don't injure anybody, but we didn't want to risk a full-size catastrophe," Dickeson said. "They're pretty good at disappearing."

Asked how it compared to the two times the center was closed due to snowstorms last winter, she said the result was the same.

Except this time she is putting up with way too many jokes about bats in her belfry or being a batty senior citizen center director.



Eight-year-old Edgar Grolean is 55 inches tall, almost the same height as the femur bone of the Camarasaurus being carefully excavated by Wyoming Dinosaur Center experts.

Another giant dinosaur found in hills southeast of Thermop

The hip and thighbones and other parts of an enormous dinosaur have been discovered in the hills above East Thermopolis, according to Greg Willson, excavation director at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center (WDC).

WDC paleontologists, with the help of vacationing families and participants in the Dig-for-a-Day program, have unearthed what appears to be the remains of a young adult or late adolescent Camarasaurus.

This 150 million-year-old Jurassic dinosaur is a Sauropod or long-necked plant eater that grew to 60 feet in length and weighed approximately 20 tons.

An existing quarry near the new site has produced three other dinosaurs in 15 years.

Two were Camarasaurus like the new discovery

and the other an Apatosaurus, formerly known as "Brontosaurus."

The new site was discovered last fall when an extremely large tail vertebra was uncovered as excess rock was being removed to open space in the area.

It was re-opened this summer in hopes that more of the dinosaur would be found.

The WDC hosts its Dig-for-a-Day program at several sites on the Warm Springs Ranch including the "WBS Quarry" where the new bones are being uncovered.

The area is visible from the Wedding of the Waters at the north end of the Wind River Canyon. Just look high on the hillside to the northeast about a couple of miles away across the Big Horn River.